

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 00366 01 OF 02 171825Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 ARA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 /092 W
-----171843Z 068975 /43

R 171430Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7904
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 DAKAR 0366

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR,UR, SG
SUBJECT: FRANCO-AFRICAN DAKAR CONFERENCE

REF A STATE 002032, B DAKAR 042, C DAKAR 76 A-150,
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1068, 0792, 0641 (ALL NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY SENEGALESE REMAIN CONCERNED ABOUT INTERVENTION
IN AFRICA BY SOVIETS AND CUBANS, WHICH THEY BELIEVE COULD
PRODUCE SECURITY THREAT TO SENEGAL. EXCHANGE OF NEW YEAR'S
REMARKS BETWEEN PRESIDENT SENGHOR AND HIS MILITARY CHIEF
OF STAFF EMPHASIZED NEED TO REINFORCE COUNTRY'S DEFENSE
CAPABILITY IN RESPONSE TO "PERILS" ALONG NATIONAL BORDERS.
SENEGAL MAKES NO SECRET OF ITS RELAIANCE ON MILITARY
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 00366 01 OF 02 171825Z

COOPERATION WITH FRANCE, WHICH MAINTAINS 1500 MAN FORCE
IN DAKAR, BUT SOME ELEMENTS IN SENEGALESE MILITARY FEEL
FRENCH HAVE NOT BEEN RESPONSIVE ENOUGH TO GOS REQUESTS.
CONSIDERING THESE PERCEPTIONS, IT IS UNDERSTANDABLE THAT
SENEGALESE WOULD WANT TO EXPLORE MULTILATERAL SECURITY
UNDERSTANDING INVOLVING FRANCE AND MODERATE AFRICAN
FRANCOPHONES. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING PAST YEAR, PRESIDENT SENGHOR AND OTHER SENEGALESE LEADERS WARNED THAT ANGOLA REPRESENTED SERIOUS DEFEAT FOR WEST AND VOICED CONCERN OVER DESTABILIZING IMPACT ON AFRICAN CONTINENT OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION ALONG ANGOLAN LINES. THEY EXPRESSED VIEW THAT SENEGAL ITSELF IS SURROUNDED BY NEIGHBORS WHERE SOVIETS ENJOY DISQUIETING INFLUENCE. ANGOLAN DENOUEMENT LEFT SENEGALESE APPREHENSIVE THAT SOVIET/CUBAN CAPACITY FOR MISCHIEF COULD POSE DIRECT SECURITY THREAT, PARTICULARLY ALONG SENEGAL'S BORDERS WITH GUINEA AND GUINEA-BISSAU. SENGHOR'S 1976 NATIONAL DAY ADDRESS WAS DEVOTED TO NEED TO REINFORCE "DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES ALONG BORDER" (DAKAR 2073). WITHDRAWAL OF SENEGALESE CONTINGENT FROM UNEF FORCE IN SINAI IN 1976 WAS ONE MANIFESTATION OF GOS CONCERN OVER SECURITY ALONG ITS OWN BORDERS.

3. SAME THEMES WERE IMPLICIT IN RECENT EXCHANGE OF 1977 NEW YEAR'S REMARKS BETWEEN ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF IDRISSE FALL AND SENGHOR. BRIG. GENERAL FALL STATED THAT "IN LIGHT OF RECENT EVENTS WHICH SAW INTERVENTION UNITS OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES LANDED IN THIRD WORLD STATES TO SUPPORT THIS OR THAT IDEOLOGY OR POLITICAL PARTY, IT IS UNQUESTIONABLY INDISPENSABLE TO HAVE AVAILABLE EQUIPPED, TRAINED AND DISCIPLINED NATIONAL TROOPS."

4. SENGHOR REPLIED THAT HE HAD SENSED, ALL YEAR LONG, ARMY'S "VIGILANT CONCERN, WHICH, FACED WITH THE MOUNTING PERILS AT OUR BORDERS, REQUIRED THAT THE ARMY BE EQUIPPED

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PAGE 03 DAKAR 00366 01 OF 02 171825Z

WITH NEW AND MORE POWERFUL MEANS." HE REASSURED ARMY THAT "GOVERNMENT FOLLOWS WITH ALL NECESSARY VIGILANCE THE EVOLUTION OF THE MILITARY SITUATION AT OUR FRONTIERS AND IN AFRICA, AS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. OUR SEVEN YEAR (MILITARY PROCUREMENT) PLAN WILL BE EXECUTED, EVEN REINFORCED." SENGHOR SAID SENEGAL WOULD WORK FOR PEACE BUT DECLARED IT A GREAT SATISFACTION "TO KNOW THAT, IF WE WERE ATTACKED, ALL THE NATIONAL ARMY WOULD BE STANDING, READY TO DO ITS DUTY. OUR NEIGHBORS KNOW IT, BUT ALSO THE EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN STATES." HOWEVER, SENGHOR NOTED THAT, WITH ONE EXCEPTION, SENEGAL MAINTAINED GOOD RELATIONS OF COOPERATION WITH SURROUNDING STATES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF SUB-REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS "WHERE WE WORK TO MAINTAIN PEACE IN THE SUB-REGION AS WELL AS TO DEVELOP OUR RESPECTIVE NATIONS."

5. FACING THESE CONCERNS, SENEGAL HAS MADE NO SECRET OF ITS RELIANCE ON MILITARY COOPERATION WITH FRANCE, AND ABOUT 1500 FRENCH MILITARY PERSONNEL REMAIN STATIONED

IN SENEGAL. (SENGHOR HAS CONTRASTED FRENCH "FACILITIES" IN SENEGAL WITH SOVIET PRESENCE IN CONAKRY, MAPUTO AND MOGADISCIO, ARGUING THAT "IT IS DANGEROUS TO WORLD PEACE FOR A DEVELOPING STATE TO PROVIDE A BASE TO A DEVELOPED STATE.") AT SAME TIME, THERE REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN SOME DISAPPOINTMENT IN MILITARY OVER FRENCH RESPONSE TO GOS REQUEST FOR INCREASED TRAINING SPACES AND FOR ACCELERATED IMPLEMENTATION OF MILITARY PROCUREMENT UNDER SEVEN YEAR PLAN. THERE ALSO APPEARS TO BE SOME DIS-SATISFACTION OVER QUALITY AND LONGEVITY OF FRENCH EQUIPMENT, CONTRIBUTING TO DESIRE TO DIVERSIFY SOURCES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 DAKAR 0366

6. GIVEN SENEGAL'S CONCERN OVER SOVIET/CUBAN ADVENTURISM, ITS FEELING OF GEOGRAPHICAL ISOLATION, ITS FRANK RELIANCE ON FRANCE COMBINED WITH VIEW THAT FRENCH ARE NOT BEING FORTHCOMING ENOUGH, PLUS ITS BELIEF THAT SUB-REGIONAL COOPERATION GROUPINGS HAVE POLITICAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC VOCATION, IT FOLLOWS THAT SENEGALESE MIGHT WELL WANT TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITIES FOR MULTILATERAL SECURITY UNDERSTANDING INVOLVING FRANCE AND MODERATE AFRICAN

FRANCOPHONES. THERE HAS BEEN NO MENTION IN DAKAR OF
SENGHOR'S REPORTED PROPOSAL FOR MULTILATERAL NONAGGRESSION
AGREEMENT (76 PARIS 37203), BUT INITIATIVE SOUNDS
ENTIRELY PLAUSIBLE, AND SENEGALESE MIGHT WELL EMBRACE
FULL-FLIDGED REGIONAL DEFENSE ZONE AS WELL, PARTICULARLY
IF IT COULD BE USED TO EXTRACT INCREASED COMMITMENTS OF
FRENCH MILITARY ASSISTANCE. SENGHOR'S REMARK TO ME
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PAGE 02 DAKAR 00366 02 OF 02 171823Z

REPORTED REF B LEFT IMPRESSION THAT SENEGALESE WOULD
TAKE INITIATIVE IN PRESSING DEFENSE QUESTIONS AT
FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT.
AGGREY

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